

Message Text

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TAGS: MILI, UY

SUBJECT: MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR URUGUAYAN MILITARY OFFICER

1. MINISTER OF DEFENSE RAVENNA APPROACHED ME TODAY TO ASK ME TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING MEDICAL TREATMENT IN U.S. MILITARY FACILITY FOR URUGUAYAN NAVAL OFFICER EDUARDO OLIVERA (RAND-ALFEREZ). HE SAID GENERAL GROSSI HAD TOLD HIM MY INTERVENTION WOULD BE NECESSARY. OLIVERA REPORTEDLY SUFFERED SERIOUS INTERNAL AND LEG INJURIES IN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT HERE. IN FULL KNOWLEDGE OF HIS CONDITION, GOU NEVERTHELESS SENT HIM TO WASHINGTON AND SOUGHT HIS ACCREDITATION AS ASSISTANT NAVAL ATTACHE SO THAT HE COULD THEN RECEIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT IN U.S. CIRCUMSTANCES OF OLIVERA'S DEPARTURE FOR U.S. WERE NOT MADE KNOWN TO ME UNTIL OCTOBER 17 ALTHOUGH DATT KNEW AND REPORTED TO DOD. APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF DATT'S REPORT, OLIVERA'S ACCREDITATION HAS BEEN REFUSED.

2. ACCORDING TO DATT, GOU PLANS ARE TO HAVE OLIVERA EXAMINED IN U.S. AND DETERMINE WHAT TREATMENT WILL BE REQUIRED AND WHAT COST WILL BE. DEPENDING ON OUTCOME EXAMINATION, THEY HOPE HE EITHER COULD REMAIN IN U.S. FOR TREATMENT OR, IF EXAMINATION COMPLETELY NEGATIVE OR COSTS PROHIBITIVE, BE RETURNED TO URUGUAY.

3. I AM AWARE OF INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING SUCH TREATMENT AND AM ALSO FULLY AWARE THAT GOU PROCEEDED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO GIVE ME NO OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT CASE THROUGH PROPER CHANNELS. YOU ARE ALSO AWARE OF OUR CURRENTLY DIFFICULT RELATIONS WITH THE URUGUAY-

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AN NAVY, LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITIES AND ATTITUDE OF

ADMIRAL GONZALEZ. BECAUSE OF THESE VARIOUS FACTORS I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY CONCERNING OLIVERA AS IT NOW SATNDS IN WASHINGTON. IF WE DO NOT NOW HELP IN SOME WAY, I FEAR ADMIRAL GONZALEZ WILL INTERPRET THIS AS "ANOTHER" EVIDENCE OF ANTI-NAVY SENTIMENT TO THE DETRIMENT OF OUR INTERESTS WITH THAT ELEMENT OF THE IMPORTANT GOU MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.

4. ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION THAT OCCURS TO ME IS TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR AN EVALUATION OF OLIVERA'S PRESENT CONDITION AND THE LENGTH, NATURE AND COST OF THE REQUIRED TREATMENT AT SOME FACILITY IN THE U.S. OR AT GORGAS. ARMED WITH THIS, I COULD THEN GO BACK TO RAVENNA FOR HIS DETERMINATION ON HOW THE GOU INTENDS TO PROCEED ON A PAYING BASIS, MAKING IT CLEAR THAT IN VIEW OF HIS CONDITION WHEN SENT TO THE U.S. HE COULD NOT QUALIFY FOR TREATMENT WE DO AFFORD TO DULY ACCREDITED MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO DO INCUR HEALTH PROBLEMS WHILE ON DUTY THERE. (AS YOU KNOW, I AM AWARE THAT THIS PRIVILEGE HAS OFTEN BEEN ABUSED.) IF A FORMAL REQUEST FROM ME WOULD BE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN SUCH A MEDICAL EVALUATION, I WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO SO BASED ON OUR INTERESTS AS I SEE THEM, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE URUGUAYAN NAVY. IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER THOUGHTS AS TO HOW WE MIGHT HANDLE THIS I WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE THEM ONCE YOU HAVE LOOKED INTO HOW THE MATTER STANDS. SIRACUSA

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